

## Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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a1  
Having described how the point-to-point protocol may be used to establish a connection from a computer to the Internet, it should be noted that may many computers are connected to a local area network (or LAN) and access the Internet via the LAN. Section 1.2.3.2 below introduces LANs in general, and Ethernet in particular.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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a2  
As just stated in § 1.2.2.1 above, during a discovery stage of PPPoE, when a host (e.g., a terminal 1512) wants to establish a connection using PPPoE, it broadcasts a PPPoE Active Discovery Initiation (or "PADI") packet and one or more access concentrators may respond with a PPPoE Active Discovery Offer (or "PADO") packet. As further just stated above, due to the broadcast nature of the PPPoE Active Discovery Initiation (PADI) packets, each one of the ATU-R units 1516 may forward these packets. ~~and, consequently.~~ It may turn out that one of the ATU-R units 1516 may always receive a PADI packet response first. Consequently, traffic between a customer's premises 1510 and its communications provider facility 1520 may not be balanced across the lines 1560. Indeed, a single line 1560 may end up

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serving a large amount of traffic while the other lines  
1560 sit idle. Such a situation is clearly undesirable.

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